

Mon., July 6 <sup>th</sup>	Design Review Committee Meeting	5:30 PM	<a href="#">COMING SOON Agenda and Zoom Access</a>
Mon., July 6 <sup>th</sup>	Development Review Board Meeting	7:00 PM	<a href="#">COMING SOON Agenda and Zoom Access</a>
Tues., July 7 <sup>th</sup>	Montpelier Energy Disclosure Ordinance Working Group	3:00 PM	<a href="#">Click HERE for Agenda and Zoom Access</a>
Wed., July 8 <sup>th</sup>	Social & Economic Justice Advisory Committee	8:30 AM	<a href="#">Click HERE for Agenda and Zoom Access</a>
Wed., July 8 <sup>th</sup>	Homelessness Task Force	11:30 AM	<a href="#">Click HERE for Agenda and Zoom Access</a>
Wed., July 8 <sup>th</sup>	Regular City Council Meeting	6:30 PM	<a href="#">Click HERE for Agenda and Zoom Access</a>
Mon., July 13 <sup>th</sup>	Planning Commission Meeting	5:30 PM	<a href="#">COMING SOON Agenda and Zoom Access</a>



## Public Health and Safety

### CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) CITY OF MONTPELIER RESPONSE UPDATE

This week, we hope that all our residents have a safe and happy July 4<sup>th</sup>! It's hard that this year will have to look different, but there is always opportunity for new traditions to be made!

The City recognizes that the ongoing pandemic is incredibly stressful and it is draining to keep up with all the changes and the news. However, we'll state again- please remember that the Coronavirus is still a very present health threat. We want to remind residents to continue practicing 6 ft. physical distancing, wearing masks when they go outside, and to choose activities that keep them away from others.

We want to share updates on the City's actions to keep residents and employees safe and healthy:

#### **State Updates:**

- **July 1<sup>st</sup> 2020:** The Governor held a press conference where he discussed the following updates:
  - ACCD and the Department of Taxes announced that the application window for the Economic Recovery Grants will open on Monday, July 6<sup>th</sup>.
    - Businesses who have been harmed by the COVID-19 pandemic will be eligible for recovery grants through ACCD or Department of Taxes if they pay Rooms & Meals Tax or Sales & Use Tax.
    - [The Economy Recovery Grant page](#) has full details, including requirements, document preparation needs, and application process.

#### **General City Updates:**

- City Hall Reopening:

- The City Hall building will be open 8:00am-4:30pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting July 2<sup>nd</sup>. Appointments are highly suggested, masks and physical distancing are required.
- The porta-johns behind City Hall and the Senior Center will remain until we are able to open City Hall full-time.

#### **City Council's Mask Ordinance:**

- City Council adopted an [Emergency Order](#) requiring the wearing of masks inside public Montpelier business establishments that went into effect Thursday June 4th.
  - This Order shall remain in effect until the Montpelier City Council amends, rescinds, or suspends this Order or until the Governor declares an end to the COVID-19 State of Emergency in Vermont, whichever occurs first, which is currently **July 15th**, unless the Governor amends that order.
- Masks have been donated for businesses and the general public and are currently being stored at Splash Naturals, 68 Main St, Montpelier, VT 05602.

#### **Regional Aid Groups Update:**

- The City is maintaining a list of situational updates and regional resources for those who may need them on the COVID-19 Response page on the website here: <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/1155/Coronavirus-Response>
- The Community Call Center is still functioning:
  - Community Call Center hours will be 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM, open weekdays. You may call or text (802) 636-2025.
- The Capital Area Neighborhoods (CAN) contact information:
  - [MontpelierCAN@gmail.com](mailto:MontpelierCAN@gmail.com) and (802) 828-7375
- Open Meal Sites and their locations are being tracked and posted on the Montpelier Mutual Aid website: [www.MontpelierMutualAid.org](http://www.MontpelierMutualAid.org)



## Responsive and Responsible Government

### **POLICE CHIEF**

It was a momentous week. Chief Facos was given a proper farewell on Tuesday and Chief Peete was sworn in on Wednesday. The successful conclusion of a process that started in February.

### **TEMPORARY PARKLET APPROVALS**

City Council has enacted a temporary parklet ordinance for the purpose of providing additional business expansion opportunities during the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic.

- [Temporary Parklet Application](#) (All applications will be submitted to the City Manager's Office at [jlamb@montpelier-vt.org](mailto:jlamb@montpelier-vt.org))
- [Temporary Parklet Ordinance](#)

This temporary ordinance is in place through October 25, 2020.

### **Approved Temporary Parklets:**

- The North Branch Café
- Three Penny Taproom

## FLAG POLICY

A revised policy based on the previous discussion will be on next week's agenda. He now have the Black Lives Matter flag that we ordered but will wait until the policy is adopted before raising it.

## STREET PAINTING REQUEST

As you can see in the agenda, there is a request to paint the street. You may wish to consider a street painting or symbol policy as well.

## MEETING WITH LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION

Representatives Hooper and Kitzmiller, and Senators Cummings, Perchlik, and Pollina have been invited to the July 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## TAX RATE

We will need to call a very short special council meeting to set the tax rate once all the state education funding information comes in.

## STRATEGIC PLAN

The completed 2020 Strategic Plan document can be found at <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/DocumentCenter/View/6879/2020-2021-Strategic-Plan-Brochure?bidId=>

## PLANNING DEPARTMENT SUMMER SCHEDULE

The Planning Department would like to update everyone on the revised summer schedule. The lower level of City Hall is still closed to the public for the foreseeable future but the office is still open remotely.

- Audra Brown is the Planning and Zoning Assistant and is working remotely therefore the best way to reach her is via email at [abrown@montpelier-vt.org](mailto:abrown@montpelier-vt.org) . She can also be reached by calling 223-9506 and leaving a message on her voicemail (which will get forwarded to her). She can help with all your smaller projects like decks and sheds. Audra is only working about 10-16 hours per week due to the covid budget cuts.
- Meredith Crandall is the Planning and Zoning Administrator and she continues to work her usual 32 hour per week schedule of Monday to Thursday. She can help with some of your larger projects like commercial developments. She can best be reached at [mcrandall@montpelier-vt.org](mailto:mcrandall@montpelier-vt.org) .
- Chris Lumbra is the Building Inspector and he is just returned to work from furlough last week. He will be working Tuesday to Friday going forward and again, due to workloads, email works best to reach him at [clumbra@montpelier-vt.org](mailto:clumbra@montpelier-vt.org) .
- Kevin Casey is our Community Development Specialist but he will remain in furlough until at least August 1 due to covid cuts. Any requests for Kevin should be sent to Mike Miller as he is covering his responsibilities for now.
- Mike Miller is the Director and continues to work full time (40 hours), mostly remotely, but will be in the office twice a week on Mondays and Fridays. He can be reached at [mmiller@montpelier-vt.org](mailto:mmiller@montpelier-vt.org) or leave a message at 262-6269.

If you have projects you are considering, it is best to start with a quick email to Audra who can review your request, get you the correct forms, and to let you know what permits you need. Give her your address and a brief description and she will address them in the order they come in. Thank you for all your patience and support. We look forward to the day we can all get back to work as a team to provide the best service for you all.

## PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING JULY 13TH

The Planning Commission would like everyone to be aware of a public hearing on July 13<sup>th</sup> to amend the zoning bylaws (technically known as the Unified Development Regulations). There will be two proposals under consideration. Both can be found at <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/1112/Zoning---Design-Review-Proposal>

- The first is the continuation of the adoption of the revised Design Review regulations that many of you commented on over the winter. This includes a complete change to the rules (found in section 2201) to add clear guidelines and standards in order to make decisions legally defensible; to set rules to be consistent with National Park Service Rehabilitation Standards; to make more flexible standards (versus the current standards) with clear exemptions for the Administrative Officer to review; and to adjust the boundaries of the overlay district in places to better follow neighborhood boundaries. Those rules were ready to go when Covid hit and we had to put everything on hold. We now feel comfortable enough to put that out for public hearing via Zoom with an in person option by appointment (we will set up a computer in the Council Chambers with a Zoom meeting connection). All of the written comments or questions can be sent to [mmiller@montpelier-vt.org](mailto:mmiller@montpelier-vt.org).
- The second proposal is a request from a property owner to rezone the properties on the corner of Pioneer Street and River Street from Riverfront to Eastern Gateway. These parcels include Lazerwash, the self-store units, and some office and retail establishments. Some of the uses and structures are now non-conforming due to the zoning changes in 2018 and the uses better match those allowed under Eastern Gateway (the adjacent zoning district). The question for the planning commission and the public is whether we keep the zoning the same (and prohibit expansions of those non-conforming uses and structures) in order to force changes over time to this area or do we adjust the zoning to make them conforming and thereby allow for expansion of some uses and structures. Again, send any questions or comments to Mike Miller at [mmiller@montpelier-vt.org](mailto:mmiller@montpelier-vt.org).



Inclusive, Equitable and Engaged Community

## MONTPELIER SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER REPORT

### **Senior Activity Center announces new Americorps position to start in September 2020: Aging in Place Coordinator!**

By serving as the **Aging in Place Coordinator**, you'll have the opportunity to support our thriving meal program, plus develop and implement exciting new offerings that will take MSAC's programs beyond the brick walls of our building. Aging services experience is not required, only the motivation to learn and a passion to serve others. The **Goal of the position** is to improve quality of life for area older adults by (1) participating in program development for MSAC's new "Aging in Place" coordinated volunteer services similar to "Village" models that have been successful in other communities around the state and country and (2) assisting MSAC's thriving FEAST Senior Meals Program. This position is part of the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board AmeriCorps. The application process will go live soon, and we hope to fill it during the month of July. Spread the word! View our [position description](#) here, and [apply or get more information about the VHCB Americorps benefits and program here](#).

### **Wishlist Items and Volunteers Needed: Help Parks and MSAC Team grow food for FEAST Senior Meals!**

Would you like to help provide FEAST with fresh, local food? This summer, the Parks Division and MSAC are teaming up to grow fresh food for Montpelier Senior Activity Center's FEAST senior meals program (including Meals on Wheels). We are so grateful for the strong show of community support already!

**Community FEAST Farm Wishlist:**

- Plastic totes and waxed cardboard boxes for produce
- Large plastic bags for greens
- Garden tools: hand tools (hand hoes, trowels, hand cultivators), long-handled hoes, steel T-posts.
- A wheelbarrow would be great too.
- Seeds or seedling starts (especially culinary herbs)
- Volunteer help with weeding, planting, watering, harvesting, and more. Several 2-hour shifts on Mondays. **No special skills or abilities are necessary!** Please bring drinking water, a mask and work gloves. Email Jacqueline Huettenmoser at [eco-amicorps@montpelier-vt.org](mailto:eco-amicorps@montpelier-vt.org) for more information or directions to the farm at 5 Home Farm Way, or [This is the link](#) to the sign-up sheet.

**Drop donations off at the Hubbard Park office** or email Jacqueline at [eco-AmeriCorps@montpelier-vt.org](mailto:eco-AmeriCorps@montpelier-vt.org) to have them picked up.



**Sustainable Infrastructure**

**DON'T FLUSH THAT**

Due to the public health crisis, not only is our city seeing a shortage on toilet paper, but many communities are as well. Department of Public Works would like to remind everyone what should NOT be flushed. Flushing items listed below could cause sewer blockages, in which could cause plugged and overflowing toilets, poorly draining sinks and showers, raw sewage backing up through floor drains, manholes overflowing onto the ground or into nearby surface waters, health hazards and nuisance odors, increases in the City's maintenance costs and costly maintenance and repair bills for YOU.

- |                                |                        |                                 |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Paper towels                 | • Diapers              | • Medications (pills or liquid) |
| • Baby wipes                   | • Cat litter           | • Bandages                      |
| • Moist towelettes             | • Cigarette butts      | • Cotton balls                  |
| • Cosmetics and cosmetic wipes | • Dental floss         | • Food scrapes                  |
| • Cloth or paper napkins       | • Latex gloves         | • Swiffer pads                  |
| • Shop towels                  | • Hypodermic needles   | • Plastic of any kind           |
| • Condoms                      | • Facial tissues       |                                 |
| • Tampons and pads             | • Fats, oils or grease |                                 |
|                                | • Clothing or rags     |                                 |

William Fraser  
City Manager

## Upcoming Agenda Items (TENTATIVE)

6/24	<a href="#">City Council Agenda and Documents available online HERE</a> <a href="#">City Council meeting recorded by ORCA Media, available HERE</a>	7/8	COVID-19 Legislative Delegation Tax Stabilization Plan Flag Policy Street Painting request Mowatt/TKS
7/22	No meeting	8/12	Equity Action Plan implementation Stormwater Master Plan Personnel Plan Design Review Ellison Project/TIF COVID-19
8/26	Community Policing COVID-19	9/9	Net Zero 2030 Plan COVID-19
9/23	New Budget Process Special Election Warning (if needed) COVID-19	10/14	Strategic Plan Progress Update Review 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter Budget status
10/28	Legislative Priorities 2021	11/11	(Veteran's Day– may need to change date) Childcare Option Study
11/25	(Thanksgiving Eve – may need to change date)	12/9	Implement Housing Initiatives Budget
12/23	(near Christmas, may need to change date) Budget	1/13/21	Budget Public Hearing Strategic Plan Progress Update Review 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter budget status
1/27/21	Budget Public Hearing Warning Public Hearing	2/10/21	City Manager Review
2/24/21		3/2/21	Annual Meeting Election

### REPORTS DUE:

Universal Recycling Law – Periodic updates

MDC/MA Partnerships – Periodic updates

Protect, Maintain and Improve Built Infrastructure – Update in October

Supporting the Community in Rebound from COVID 19 – Regular updates